

April, 2024

Domaine Bitouzet-Prieur (Volnay)

2022 Beaune "Cents Vignes" 1er red 91

2022 Volnay red 89

2022 Volnay "Les Aussy" 1er red 92

2022 Volnay "Les Caillerets" 1er red 93

2022 Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er red 94

2022 Volnay "Les Pitures" 1er red 93

2022 Volnay "Les Taillepieds" 1er red 93

François Bitouzet minced no words, overtly declaring "I would take this vintage anytime as it has everything, which is to say quality, volume and excellent transparency plus it's equally good in both red and white. Frankly, it's hard to ask for much more. Add to this that the growing season was largely stress free and you can easily understand why if it was possible to sign a contract for 10 more years like 2022, I'd sign immediately, no questions asked. I chose to pick on the 25th of August and continued through to the 31st, which marks the first time in career that I began and ended the harvest in August. Yields were very good without being high as the pinot came in between 38 and 43 hl/ha while the chardonnay average 50 hl/ha across all of our appellations. Potential alcohols ranged from 12.5 to 13.9% for the reds and 13 to 13.5% for the whites. The vinifications were easy as the fruit was so clean and the élevage was also easy. Add to this wines that are fresh, balanced and can be approached young yet will certainly age gracefully over the next 20 years and you can see why I'm so impressed with this vintage." I have to agree with Bitouzet as he has crafted first-rate wines in 2022. Moreover, he has done so in both colors. The reds were bottled in December 2023. (Rosenthal Wine Merchant, www.madrose.com, NY, USA; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, UK; SAQ, www.saq.com, Canada; Jebesen Beverage Co., www.jebesen.com, China/Hong Kong, Grand Millésime Wine, www.grandmillesime.com.au, Australia).

2022 Volnay

(from several parcels that include Ez Echards, Les Aussy and Les Petits Gamets). Cooler and more restrained aromas include those of spicy red berries, poached plum and an array of elegant floral nuances. The sleek and racy medium-bodied flavors possess excellent volume as well as evident minerality on the more complex and persistent finish where a touch of youthfull austerity slowly emerges. Lovely.

89/2028+

2022 Beaune "Cents Vignes"

This is also ripe yet cool with its nose of the essence of red currant, spice and exotic tea. The vibrant, delicious and almost delicate flavors also conclude in a youthfully austere, moderately firm, beautifully balanced and sneaky long finale. This is pretty much textbook Cents Vignes.

91/2030+

2022 Volnay "Les Aussy"

A more restrained blend features notes of violet, anise, dark raspberry and a whiff of rose petal. There is fine volume and richness to the relatively generously proportioned medium weight flavors that exude a subtle bead of minerality that adds a sense of lift to the lightly austere, balanced and impressive long finale. This has excellent development potential and is a wine that is going to need at least 5-ish years first.

92/2032+

2022 Volnay "Les Taillepieds"

This is also extremely pretty aromatically with its wonderfully spicy combination of poached plum, red and black cherry and floral nuances. There is excellent detail to the sleek, intense and tautly muscular flavors that possess a bit more overall size and weight while exhibiting excellent length on the balanced, chalky and youthfully austere finale. This firm effort is very much built on its almost pungent minerality, indeed the mouthfeel is like rolling a small pebble around your tongue!

93/2034+

2022 Volnay "Les Caillerets"

As is often the case, this has the spiciest nose in the range with its cool and airy aromas of dark pinot fruit, violet, exotic tea and crushed fennel. The mouthfeel of the middleweight flavors is even finer if not quite as mineral-driven, all wrapped in a caressing, balanced and complex finale that delivers sneaky good length. This is very classy juice in a package that should permit it to be enjoyed young if desired.

93/2032+

2022 Volnay "Clos des Chênes"

There is just enough wood present to merit pointing out on the distinctly earthy black cherry liqueur-like nose where a hint of kirsch lurks in the background. The super-sleek and appealingly vibrant medium weight flavors are not especially dense yet there is good power as well as fine depth and outstanding persistence on the compact, serious, youthfully austere and impeccably well-balanced finale. This is a first-rate Clos des Chênes.

94/2034+

2022 Volnay "Les Pitures"

(from 35+ year old vines). A cool and restrained nose somewhat grudgingly reveals its aromas of primarily red berry fruit along with subtle spice and floral wisps. The round, rich and powerful larger-bodied flavors are shaped by firm and slightly angular tannins on the youthfully austere and impressively persistent finish. In contrast to most of the wines in the range, the Pitures is not one that will make for especially good early drinking, indeed I would say that it's a wine to buy and forget you own it for at least a decade.

93/2034+